

Mark Dannels
Sheriff

Thad Smith
Chief Deputy

Office of the Sheriff

Cochise County



December 4, 2017

Border Security Advisory Committee
1700 West Washington St.
Phoenix, Arizona 85007-2890

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Cochise County Sheriff's Office respectfully requests \$55,633.94 to purchase equipment to be utilized by a specialty unit in an effort to combat, reduce and ultimately eradicate illegal human and drug smuggling in our communities.

The request is in reference to the Border Security Trust Fund to be utilized to construct and maintain a virtual or physical fence to secure the State of Arizona's borders.

I. SITUATION

A. General Situation

Cochise County Arizona is 6,125 square miles and shares 83 miles of international border with the Republic of Mexico. Cochise County has a significant history of smuggling activity dating back to the 1880's which continues to this day. The implementation of "Hold the Line" in Texas and "Gatekeeper" in California by the Federal Government in 1994 created a funnel, pushing human and drug trafficking through Cochise County. The surge of illegal aliens resulted in increased criminal activity in Cochise County such as home invasions, robberies, burglaries, auto theft, and property damage. Illegal aliens are also frequent victims of robbery, sexual assault and kidnapping for ransom. In addition to the victimization of the illegal aliens, they tend to underestimate the rigors of journey and weather, creating innumerable cases of dehydration, hypothermia and death.

Another significant law enforcement and national concern is the possibility of the intrusion of terrorist through our porous border with the Republic of Mexico.

B. Terrain/Weather

Cochise County is comprised of several different climate zones, ranging from high desert grassland to pine covered mountains. There are six mountain ranges within Cochise County of varying elevations, the tallest being over 9700 feet, with large flat valleys between the ranges. The average temperature in Cochise County ranges from a high of 95 degrees in June & July to 25 degrees in January and February. Although those are the averages, temperatures frequently climb over 115 degrees in the summer and into single digits during the winter nights, especially in the higher elevations. A rainy season, called “monsoons” from June through September has torrential rains, thunderstorms, hail, high winds and lightning. Exposure to these weather and terrain elements result in numerous illegal alien fatalities each year.

C. Criminal Element

There are several smuggling organizations operating on both sides of the international border. As security along the international border has been strengthened by the United States Border Patrol the smuggling organizations are working harder to circumvent the increased security measures. Possibly because of the increased effort they are more resistant to apprehension. Their reluctance has manifested as an increase in assaults of law enforcement and high speed pursuits. It is common for smugglers to utilize encrypted radios and cellular telephones to communicate. Frequently the mules, smugglers carrying the marijuana or other contraband, are escorted by scouts. It is not uncommon to encounter scouts which are armed and utilizing body armor. When smugglers become aware they’ve been detected by law enforcement they try to flee back to Mexico which sometimes results in high speed pursuits that endanger that endangers not only those involved but unsuspecting citizens, as well.

D. Friendly Fire

There are two international Ports of Entry in Cochise County located in Douglas & Naco, AZ. The United State Border Patrol has three stations located in Douglas, Naco and Willcox, AZ. In addition to the Arizona Department of Public Safety there are seven municipal police departments within the County. The Federal Bureau of Investigation, Immigration and Customs Enforcement and Drug Enforcement Agency all operate within Cochise County. United States Army Installation Fort Huachuca, located in Sierra Vista AZ, has both military police and Department of Defense security police. The Sheriff’s Office also

works cooperatively with the Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office, Graham County Sheriff's Office, Hidalgo County Sheriff's Office in New Mexico and the Mexican Consular's Office.

II. MISSION

The overall mission of the Cochise County Sheriff's Office in the fight against illegal human and drug trafficking is to detect and apprehend drug smugglers and their contraband, in addition to seizing undocumented aliens by coordinating with the appropriate federal partners; to deter criminal activity associated with those smuggling operations and to impair the drug trafficking organizations ability to utilize the roadways within Cochise County. Our mission includes reducing the victimization of illegal aliens by these organizations.

III. CONCEPT / EXECUTION

The federal government, specifically the United State Border Patrol, is charged with the security of the international border. Utilizing the resources at their disposal, Border Patrol has done a good job installing a combination of a physical and virtual fence to deter illegal entry into the United States. Unfortunately, while getting better, the Border Patrol still doesn't have control of the border, which means human and drug trafficking is an ongoing problem in Cochise County.

The Cochise County Sheriff's Office is charged with protecting our citizens and those passing through our jurisdiction, therefore the daily penetration of the 83 mile section of the international border we share with Mexico by human and drug trafficking organizations in furtherance of their criminal enterprise and the ancillary criminal activity which occurs in Cochise County is our responsibility and requires a response.

Every year, the citizens of Cochise County are victims of burglaries, thefts and property damage by either smugglers themselves or undocumented illegal aliens entering the county to find work. Occasionally, more significant crimes occur such as homicide, home invasions, sexual assaults and assaults on law enforcement.

The Cochise County Sheriff's Office has a unit specifically assigned to combat these crimes. It is the Southeast Arizona Border Region Enforcement Team, SABRE, in conjunction with our Ranch Patrol team. They are an eight-person team comprised of 5 Sheriff's deputies, 2 Arizona Department of Public Safety Officers and a National Guard Analyst.

In November of 2016 the Sheriff's Office received funding from the Border Security Advisory Committee for a virtual fence system. We utilized the funds to purchase 50 Buckeye cameras and additional support equipment. We identified a 42 square mile operational area to focus our efforts. The area covers about 14 miles of the international border and extends 3 miles north from the border.

Since January of 2017 the SABRE team, utilizing the Buckeye Camera system has achieved the following:

Felony Drug Arrest – 37
Conviction Rate – 100%
Years of Incarceration – 69 (1 Pending)
LBS of Marijuana - 3998.17 LBS
Mules Buckeye Pictures - 67
UDA Buckeye Pictures – 380

In addition to the successful results highlighted above, we have been able to gather intelligence about human and drug smuggling patterns which may have gone undetected or taken considerably longer to establish. The camera system is flexible and can be changed to address the actual operational situation instead of fixed virtual fence systems such as camera poles.

The Buckeye camera system is a very efficient and effective tool which enables the 8-person Cochise County Sheriff's Office SABRE team to significantly impact human and drug trafficking operations. This system enables us to monitor a large area and respond to current, confirmed activity as opposed to undirected patrols, hoping to stumble into a smuggling operation.

IV. BUDGET

The Cochise County Sheriff's Office respectfully requests the following equipment to expand and enhance our current Buckeye Camera system. The additional equipment will assist the Sheriff's Office in meeting our mission of the protection of life and property; the preservation of peace, order, and safety and fortifying the states security against illegal entry into our country.

Administration/Logistics/ Budget Request	Narrative Justification (Computation of Items)	Funding Request
Equipment Amplifier	3 Watt 900 MHz Amplifier, 6 @ \$475	\$2850.00
Equipment DC Power Injector 902-928 MHz	DC Power Injector 902-928 MHz, 6 @ \$83.00	\$498.00
Equipment 900 MHz Outdoor filter	900 MHz Outdoor filter, 6 @ \$179.47	\$1076.82
Safety Equipment Snake Gaiters	Snake Gaiters, 10 @ \$50.00	\$500.00
Equipment X80 Buckeye Camera Kit	X80 Buckeye Camera Kit, 30 @ \$899.00	\$26,970.00
Equipment Camera Battery	UB 1290 Battery , 70 @ \$35.00	\$2450.00
Equipment 3 Element Yagi Antenna (8in)	3 Element Yagi (8in), 30 @ \$45.00	\$1350.00
Equipment Rodent Shield 25ft	Rodent Shield 25ft , 30 @ \$58.00	\$1740.00
Equipment Cellular Yagi Antenna	Cellular Yagi Antenna, 6 @ \$140.00	\$840.00
Equipment Garmin Rino 755T	Garmin Rino 755T 6 @ \$649.99	\$3899.94
Equipment Motorola Tactical ear kit	Motorola Tactical ear kit, 16 @ \$69.95	\$1119.20
Equipment X80 Echo Kit	X80 Echo Kit, 10 @ \$459.00	\$4590.00
Safety Equipment Camelbak hydration pack H.A.W.G.	Camelbak hydration pack H.A.W.G., 10 @ \$132.99	\$1329.90
Equipment Binoculars	Swarovski binoculars 10X50 (EL 50) 1 @ \$3110.00	\$3110.00
Estimated Shipping & Taxes	Taxes: \$2930.08 Shipping: \$380	\$3,310.08
TOTAL		\$55,633.94

V. CONCLUSION

If approved the Cochise County Sheriff's Office will employ the above listed equipment to continue to combat human and drug smuggling into the State of Arizona and our nation. The equipment will enhance our proven ability to interdict human and drug trafficking organizations. It will help the Sheriff's Office and our partners to improve state & national security and improve the quality of life in Cochise County.